

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 AID-05

ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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P R 281759Z APR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9605

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 2955

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3254

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID SHUM CASC AO

SUBJ: ICRC IN ANGOLA

REF: A. STATE 093166 B. GENEVA 3189

1. ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS HOCKE EXPLAINED TO DEPTOFF SIEVERTS (D/HA) APRIL 28 THAT ANGOLAN DECISION THAT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY "NATIONAL AGENCIES" (REF B) REFLECTS UNEASINESS OF ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMS COMING IN FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. ICRC HAD PROPOSED A SIX MONTH MEDICAL AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, FOR WHICH PERSONNEL AND MATERIALS HAD BEEN IN READINESS. ANGOLAN DECISION MEANS ICRC WILL NOT GO FORWARD WITH EXPANDED PROGRAM, AND IT HAS CANCELLED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. SOME OF THE 30 ICRC STAFF NOW IN ANGOLA WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN TO CARRY ON TRADITIONAL ICRC TASKS OF DISTRIBUTING SMALLER AMOUNTS OF AID, AND ASSISTING PRISONERS, TO THE EXTEND POSSIBLE.

2. HOCKE THOUGHT ANGOLANS EXPECT TO GET ASSISTNACE FROM CUBAN RED CROSS AND OTHER "NATIONAL AGENCIES" FROM COUNTRIES  
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WHO SUPPORT "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA" (PRA). HOCKE DID

NOT THINK THAT LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES OR WESTERN RED CROSS SOCIETIES WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY IN NEAR FUTURE. SPECIFICALLY, HE DOUBTED THAT AMERICAN RED CROSS OR ANY OTHER ESTABLISHED AMERICAN AGENCY COULD CHANNEL SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLANS. HOCKE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF USG'S READINESS TO RESPOND TO ICRC APPEAL FOR ANGOLA WITH FOOD AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AND REGRETTED THAT MEANS DO NOT PRESENTLY EXIST FOR ICRC TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM.

3. HOCKE NOTED IN CONFIDENCE THAT REMAINING ICRC DELEGATES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR INQUIRIES ABOUT PRISONERS INCLUDING US MERCENARIES. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE OF THEIR RECEIVING A RESPONSE "IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS" IN ANSWER TO A WRITTEN APPEAL ABOUT THE DETAINEES (INCLUDING AMERICANS) WHICH THEY HAD SENT TO THE PRA. ICRC WILL RELAY SUBSTANCE OF ANY RESPONSE TO USG.

4. HOCKE ADDED THAT ANGOLAN "RED CROSS" WAS IN PARLOUS SHAPE. THERE HAD BEEN A PORTUGUESE RED CROSS ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS FIRST TAKEN OVER BY ONE GROUP, THEN BY MPLA ADHERENTS, WHO HAD RECENTLY FALLEN OUT AMONGH THEMSELVES. A PROMINENT MEDICAL DOCTOR AND MPLA SUPPORTER WHO IS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO PRA PRESIDENT NETTO IS PRESENTLY IN CHARGE.

5. HOCKE SAID HE MET WITH NETTO FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS DURING HIS VISIT TO LUANDA DURING WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A BUSY DAY WITH MANY OTHRRS WAITING. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS A VERY "THIN LAYER" AT THE TOP, AND THAT THERE REMAINS A LOT OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. THIS HE THOUGHT WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE DECISION TO REJECT INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF THE TYPE OFFERED BY ICRC.

6. HOCKE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE OVER 12,000 CUBANS IN ANGOLA, AND THAT CONTRARY TO HIS ORIGINAL IMPRESSION, MANY OF THEM APPEARED TO BE RELATIVELY LIGHT-COMPLECTED, RATHER THAN BLACK CUBANS. HE SAID CUBANS ARE STARTING TO BRING WIVES AND FAMILIES INTO ANGOLA, AND THAT THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN "INCIDENTS" BETWEEN CUBANS AND THE LOCAL POPULATION. HE THOUGHT THERE WERE ABOUT 1,000 RUSSIANS IN ANGOLA BUT HAD

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NO OPINION ON HOW THEY WERE GETTING ALONG WITH THE LOCALS.

7. COMMENT: HOCKE RECOGNIZED THAT ANGOLAN REJECTION OF ICRC EXPANDED PROGRAM WILL BE FRUSTRATING TO USG AND OTHER DONORS WHO HAD COUNTED ON ICRC TO PROVIDE NON-POLITICAL UMBRELLA FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT AUTHORITIES MIGHT LATER CHANGE THEIR MIND BUT HAD NO IDEA WHEN THIS WOULD HAPPEN. HE PROMISED ICRC WOULD CONTINUE

TO DO ALL IT COULD TO ASSIST THE AMERICAN MERCENARIES.DALE

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## Message Attributes

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